

Newport Mercury  
Published every SATURDAY by  
PRATT & MESSER,  
AT CORNER OF  
Market sq. & Thames street.  
TERMS.—\$2.00 per annum; or  
\$1.75 if paid strictly in advance.  
Advertisements inserted at one dollar  
per line for the first three insertions,  
and 20 cents for each subsequent insertion.  
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can make contracts on liberal terms.  
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tising is limited to their own busi-  
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# Newport Mercury

ESTABLISHED JUNE 12, 1758.

NEWPORT, R. I., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1863.

ments for the benefit of other persons, as well as all legal advertisements, notices, and advertisements of real estate, auction sales, and in all cases, must be paid at the usual rates.  
Cards of acknowledgment religious notices, and notices of marriages, and all advertisements, must be paid at the usual rates.  
No paper will be discontinued until arrears are paid, except at the option of the publishers.  
**Job Printing**  
In its various branches, executed with dispatch.  
P. A. PRATT—WM. MESSER

Volume 105.

Number 5,446.

## Poetry.

For the Mercury.  
"Ye also, as lively stones are built up a spiritual house."—1 Peter, II, 5.  
Oh, Master Builder! lo, I bring to thee  
A stone for thy great temple, having heed  
That thou hast need, yes, please, to build  
For stones to build with, I was not such thy word?  
Having none else, I wretched, with eager care,  
The corner-stone of my poor hut away.  
Thinking, I oft had proudly watched it there,  
It might be laid when revealed in day.  
I thought it marble, soiled perchance, yet white,  
And fit, when polished, for some use of thine.  
But when I brought it forth and let the light  
Of thy great dome of glory on it shine,  
I found it scratched and broken, marred and stained:  
There is a flaw that runs its whole breadth thro',  
And, hard as adamant, it yet retained  
Dark spots and lines that blackened it while new.  
Now, oh my Master, wilt thou have this stone  
So flawed, so useless, in thy temple fair,  
'Tis all I have to give that is mine own:  
I offer it with half-despairing prayer—  
I fear thy tools may bludgeoned turn aside—  
The workmen toil in vain in polishing,  
And all who pass thy building may deride  
Thy choice in taking such a worthless thing.  
Yet if thou wouldst but take it, Master mine!  
—Is no stone needed to uphold the floor,  
Or underneath the stairway of the shrine  
With fair and smooth mosaics covered o'er?  
Or hidden in the wall, where outwardly  
The snowy marbles breathe themselves to life?  
Or in the threshold where all quietly  
Pilgrims pass in peace, from this world's strife.  
Sayest thou "what price?" What price? Canst  
thou forget  
How once, a self-sold slave, I toiled in vain,  
When thou didst see in passing, paid my debt,  
And with thine own hands loosed the galling  
chain.  
And once when ill, and fainting unto death,  
How thou stooped by my bedside, tenderly  
Healing me by one murmur of thy breath—  
—This stone is all I have to offer thee.  
Refuse it not, my Master. Let it be  
Well hidden by the rest, but put it in;  
It adds no beauty to thy sanctuary;  
It has no power-praise for thee to win,  
But in my inmost heart to feel and know  
That all I need of some small use to thee,  
Is all I have of blessedness below.  
Is more than all thy heaven would be to me.  
ELLEN.

## Useful Hints.

PASTE, made by adding to each half pint of flour paste without alum, fifteen grains of corrosive sublimate, previously rubbed to powder in a mortar, the whole to be well mixed; this, if prevented from drying, by being kept in a covered pot, remains good any length of time, and is therefore convenient; but unfortunately it is extremely poisonous, though its excessive use would prevent its being swallowed accidentally; it possesses the great advantage of not being liable to the attacks of insects.  
LIQUID GLUE.—Several preparations were much in vogue a few months since under this title. The liquid glue of the shops is made by dissolving shellac in water, by boiling it along with borax, which possesses the peculiar property of causing the solution of the resinous lac. This preparation is convenient from its cheapness and freedom from smell; but it gives way if exposed to long-continued damp, which washes with naptha resin.  
STEWED WATER CRESS.—The following receipt may be new, and will be found an agreeable and wholesome dish.—Lay the cress in strong salt and water, to clear it from insects. Pick and wash nicely, and stew it in water for about ten minutes; drain and chop, season with pepper and salt, add a little butter, and return it to the stew-pan until well heated. Add a little vinegar first before serving; put around it sippets of toast or fried bread. The above, made thin, as a substitute for parsley and butter, will be found an excellent covering for a boiled fowl. There should be more of the cress considerably than of the parsley, as the flavor is much milder.  
To loosen glass stoppers of bottles; with a feather bar a drop or two of salad oil round the stopper, close to the mouth of the bottle or decanter, which must then be placed before the fire, at the distance of about eighteen inches; the heat will cause the oil to insinuate itself between the stopper and the neck. When the bottle or decanter has grown warm, gently strike the stopper on one side, and then on the other, with any light wooden instrument; then try it with the hand; if it will not yet move, place it again before the fire, adding another drop of oil. After a while strike again as before; and, by persevering in this process, however tightly it may be fastened in, you will at length succeed in loosening it.  
CASH AND CREDIT.—If you would get rich, don't deal in bill books. Credit is the tempter in a new shape. Buy goods on trust, and you will purchase a thousand articles that Cash would never have dreamed of. A shilling in the hand looks larger than ten shillings seen through the perspective of a three months' bill. Cash is practical, while Credit takes horribly to taste and romance. Let cash buy a dinner, and you will have a beefsteak flanked with onions. Send Credit to market, and he will return with eight pairs of woodcocks and a peck of mushrooms. Credit believes in diamond pins and champagne suppers. Cash is more easily satisfied. Give him three meals a day, and he doesn't care much if two of them are made up of roasted potatoes and a little dirty salt. Cash is a good adviser, while Credit is a good fellow to be on visiting terms with. If you want double shins and contentment, do the business with Cash.  
CEREMONIES.—All ceremonies are in themselves very silly things; yet a man of the world should know them. They are the out-work of manners and decency, which would be defence which keeps the enemy at a proper distance. It is for that reason that we should always treat fools and conceits with great ceremony, true good-breding not being a sufficient barrier against them.

## Selected Tale.

### JOHN MORGAN'S SUBSTITUTE.

A STORY OF THE PRESENT WAR.

It had been the day for drafting in a little town in the hill country of Connecticut. It was nightfall now, and a man walked slowly home to the wife who had watched and waited for him. He was a tall, handsome fellow—thirty-five perhaps; vigorous of limb, strong of muscle, with kindly yet earnest eyes, well-cut features, and an expression of fearless integrity. You would have known him at once for what he was—a good, unselfish, courageous, honest man, worthy of winning, capable of holding a woman's love.  
She who listened for his coming heard the slow step upon the gravel, and sprang from the door to meet him. You could see, even in that dim light, what a bright, cheery, pretty woman she was; with her loving eyes, her dark, satin-smooth hair, her rosy, tender lip, and the fresh roses on her cheeks. She went up to her husband and put her hands on his arm lovingly.  
"I know you have had news for me, John."  
"Yes, Mary; I must go. I was the third one drafted."  
The wife felt her limbs shake, and she thought at first she could not stand. All the forces of her nature seemed giving way, but she rallied bravely. For his sake she would be calm and strong; but she could not speak just then. She led him into the house where their children were—five of them; the eldest only ten in the July just gone. There was something in their father's manner which checked the noisy demonstrations with which they were wont to greet him, and they only gave him a few silent kisses as he sat down in the great chair by the west window. He buried his face in his hands for awhile, and then he lifted it and looked round on the little group of his loved ones. Three girls and two boys, and his wife, their mother, looking in spite of years of care, as fair, almost as young, as the day he brought her home his new-made bride. His chest heaved with a long and bitter sigh—a sort of sob of despair rather—and then he said, as if he feared even she, his other self, might misunderstand him.  
"God knows, it is not for my own sake, Mary! I do not think I am afraid to die. I would go with more than willingness, with joy, if I had not so much to leave.—If I fall, what will become of you and the children? I cannot bear to think of what you might suffer, with no one to stand between you and the cares and sorrows of the world. Mary, this drafting indiscriminately does not seem quite just. Surely the single men ought to go first!"  
His wife stole her hand into his very gently.  
"Do not think of us," she said, with a true woman's self-forgetfulness. "It is not that. We should do well enough. You need not fear that we should come to want. But O, John—!" And just there she broke down utterly, and cried out, with a burst of passionate tears, "No, I cannot bear it. You will die. I shall never, never see your face again. If I could know that you would come back, even were it maimed and helpless, I should not murmur; but to think that you might die there, and I could not help you—that your eyes would seek mine, your hands grope for mine, and I not be there—O! John, I shall go mad with hopeless horror!"  
It was his turn now. He drew her into the shelter of his arms, he rested her poor head on his breast, he whispered, tenderly.  
"All who fight do not die. Mary, God watches over us there as well as here.—Some women's husbands must go, poor child. Something may happen yet that I shall not have to."  
He knew, however, no solitary chance under the wide heavens by which he could escape. The words with him were but the vaguest utterance of soothing; but she caught at them eagerly.  
"You could procure a substitute, perhaps—is that what you mean?"  
"I would if I could," he answered evasively, remembering in his own mind the difficulty that richer men than he had experienced in procuring them in those quiet, thinly peopled, agricultural towns. "I am very tired, Mary, can you give me tea?"  
Cheered a little by her new hope, and anxious, above all, to cheer him and make him comfortable, the wife got up and went into the kitchen. The biscuit for supper were already made, and in a few moments tea was upon the table. John Morgan drank cup after cup of it, with an eager, feverish thirst, but eating with him was a mere feat. When the meal was over, the children were put to bed, but the two eldest girls. They stole out to the open door, and sat down in the September moonlight, their arms around each other—feeling with a sort of dumb pain, that a shadow which they could not resist, had fallen upon the household. Their mother, meantime, had lighted her lamp and taken her work—a child's frock which she was finishing—to the little round stand.

She would not let this evening seem more unlike other evenings than she could help. Soon there came a footstep up the gravelled walk; this time, a quick, firm tread. The girls in the door made for the new comer to enter, and he came in and stood silently for a moment in the centre of the little sitting room. He was a slender, elegantly moulded man. You could see at a glance that the fibre of his manhood had never yet been tested by any tough struggle with fate. Yet one would not have doubted his untried courage. It shone in his steady blue eyes, sad with unspoken pain; it betrayed itself in the curl of his lip, the curl of his nostril. They say no soldiers ever fought better than the gentry of England—white of hand, haughty of look, delicate of feature. Some such blood flowed in the veins of Ash Thornycroft—He was the only son of the rich mill owner whose foreman John Morgan was. He was no stranger at the little cottage; and even in this sorrowful hour there was no danger of his being unwelcome. He was the first to speak.  
"It is hard on you, Morgan, this draft. My father was saying to-night that he did not know how he should contrive to spare you. So well as you're doing now, too, already comfort and competence for you and yours, and better things in prospect."  
"It's useless talking. I think I must be born under a lucky star. You were, Mr. Thornycroft's son, to begin with; young, rich, without a tie to fetter you; and of course the draft spared you."  
"Without a tie! Do you call that happiness?"  
John Morgan's eyes fell beneath that sad, steady gaze of reproach. He remembered then one who had died in March, on whose grave the lonesome spring rains had wept tears which sprang up again in roses and violets—the gentle girl whom Ash Thornycroft had loved so long and well.  
"Forgive me," he said, in a low, penitent tone. The other went on:  
"I think you forgot yourself a little when you repine at this stroke as if it were the worst thing which could have happened—Would you give up your wife, or one of your children, even to escape from the perils of this war?"  
"Did you think I was a coward?" and the honest soul looked indignantly out of John Morgan's eyes. "If I were to fall what would they do? I have struggled to shield them so far as I could from want, care or privation. How are they fitted to tread the world's rough paths alone?"  
"No, I did not take you for a coward.—If I had I should not have thought your life worth saving. I think I know how I should feel in your place. It is a place which I shall never stand. I am going to enlist, John. It is my duty, for I have nothing to keep me at home. I am ready to give all that I have to my country. If I fall I shall only go the sooner where all my longings tend. What is to hinder my sparing you to your happy fireside? I came to propose myself as your substitute."  
"It is not, are you sure it is not, to spare me? Would you go in any case?" John Morgan asked, with a little doubt in his voice.  
"Do not fear that I am going for your sake. I made up my mind as soon as the call came for volunteers. I only waited for this very thing—the chance, if I should not be drafted myself, of saving some man who was, to the woman that loved him—I am glad it is you, John, my good old friend, to whom I can render this service."  
John Morgan was a man of few words, of feelings which lay so deep that they seldom rose to the surface; but there was something which Ash Thornycroft needed no language to interpret in the look of his eyes, and the grasp of his hand, as he hurried out of the room.  
Thornycroft was one of those men with a vein of tenderness in the midst of their strength which always allies them more nearly to women than to men. Left alone with Mrs. Morgan, he said what he never would have said to her husband. It was when she thanked him, with earnest words, and sobs and tears of joy yet more eloquent.  
"There was one, Mrs. Morgan, who loved me as well as you love John. You do not need to thank me. All that I ever do for any other woman I would do for her sake. You have seen her; you know how fair and sweet she was; but I think no one save me knows all her purity, her saint-like goodness. I have had only one hope since she died, that I might be fit to go to her. If I die in this good cause, think of me as happy with an unspeakable happiness. It will be opening the golden gates the sooner. I shall not see you again, so I will bid you good-by now."  
Her tears fell upon his hand, her lips touched it. She whispered brokenly her blessing, the blessing of one who owed to him more than her own life; and so, appointed for his work, as it were by those holy tears and prayers, he went away.  
The girls at the door saw his face in the moonlight, while yet radiant and tender. They ran in to their mother asking their childish questions—  
"What made Mr. Thornycroft look so?"  
"What was he here for?"

"Father is not going away; Mr. Thornycroft is going in his stead. We shall keep father at home."  
And then, womanlike, she fell to hugging them and crying over them; and just then John came back, and took the three all together in his strong arms.  
It was one of the supreme moments of life which, whether of joy or grief, picture themselves to our minds and need no description.  
Ash Thornycroft walked away with a firm tread. He turned aside when he came to the church, with the old burying ground in the rear, full of grass-grown mounds. He went in there and knelt beside a grave on whose headstone the name of Constance Ireton gleamed white and clearly out in the moonlight.  
"O, my darling, my darling!" he cried, with his lips pressed to the sod. If the dead could hear, that still heart beneath should have thrilled again to the accents of such love. Many a night had he talked to her there, as now, with a strange sense of nearness—a full belief in the communion of their souls.  
"You are not here, I know, and yet I know you hear me. I am going away to-morrow, God's soldier and yours. Give me your blessing, Constance, and pray for me, you who have already seen the Father's face, that I may do my work without faltering, and the end may come soon."  
It was but a dream of his own overwrought fancy; but he seemed to see a cloud draw near, from which a face looked—a white, sweet face, sad with waiting, yet glorified with immortal hope. He seemed to hear a voice, which said,  
"Go forth, my beloved, and do your work. Soon will the struggle be over, and the reward will be long and sure."  
For an instant he seemed to see the smile upon her face, the look of faithful love in the immortal eyes. Then, when he stretched out his arms towards it, the cloud seemed to melt into the white moonlight; not even an echo of the voice thrilled the September air—he was alone with the night.  
He went away next day to join his regiment, one which had already seen hard service. There was in him the true mettle of a true soldier. His day might be short—he would be busy while it lasted. Besides, I think he liked his grim work. He was always to be found among the volunteers for any desperate service. In many a fierce charge he led the van, with his bright, fair hair glittering goldenly in the sunlight, and a blue glint in his eyes. He was never wounded. Nothing happened to disable him from his duty. He had refused well earned promotion, and once, when a true comrade who marched away at his side had asked him the reason why, he answered,  
"Because I shall be here so little while."  
"I thought you volunteered for three years. I had heard that you came in place of a nine months' man, but that you choose to enlist for the longer time and join an old regiment."  
There was no answer to the inquiring tone which made a question of this remark, and Stephen Chase, who understood his comrade too well to press the point, was as much puzzled as ever.  
He comprehended it all better the night before Fredericksburg. They sat together on a stone a little way from their tent.—For a while both had been thinking silently of what the dawn was to bring.  
"It will be a tough fight," Chase said, at length.  
"You may well say so," Ash Thornycroft answered. "It is a terrible responsibility to assume, that of leading men to such certain destruction; and yet, if we can but win the victory! There is hardly a man but would be willing to sell his life for that. It is the only regret I have in going in, that I shall never know which side conquers."  
"Nonsense, man, don't get blue after seeing so much blood spilt as you have, and coming out of so many hard bouts scarless."  
"It was not my time, hitherto. It is, now. I shall go into the fight more joyfully than ever tried children went home. I only have one wish. If you pull through alive take care of my body. I want to be buried at home, beside a grave that was made last March in the Westville churchyard. You must send me to my father—David Thornycroft, Westville, Connecticut. Here it is written down for you. Papers that I left at home explaining my wishes will be sufficient for the rest."  
His manner carried conviction at least of his own faith in his forewarning, but Stephen Chase tried to shake it off.  
"I never knew a presentiment to come true in my life," he said sturdily. "You will talk over the battlefield twenty-four hours from now."  
Thornycroft only smiled, as he said,  
"Do you promise what I asked, Stephen? Will you send my body to my father if it is within your power to protect it?"  
"Yes, for your satisfaction I promise. I shall not bid you good-by, though."  
They were toiling up the hill, that fatal afternoon of the next day, side by side, when suddenly Thornycroft looked round with kindling eyes to his comrade. He stretched out his hand with a smile which the other will never forget if he lives till his hair is white.  
"Good-by, Stephen."  
The next instant he fell heavily. A rebel shot had given him his mortal wound. With exertions which would seem half incredible if I should relate them, Stephen Chase succeeded in getting him off the field. He was not dead, and a hope still lingered in his comrade's heart that he might yet live to tell at home the story of the war. He did not speak or move, but faithful Stephen could feel the faint beating of his heart.  
He did not die till the troops had gone back across the Rappahannock. He belonged to a division which went into the fight six thousand strong, and went back at night with only fifteen hundred. He lay there with the wounded round him—the thin ranks out of which so many brave feet had marched forever. Just at dawning he looked up and met his friend's eyes. He faltered feebly.  
"A defeat, Stephen! I lived to know—victims, not conquerors." Then his face brightened with a strange radiance, and he whispered, so softly that his friend could scarcely catch the words—whispered as to some invisible auditor—  
"Yes, my darling, yes!"  
The next instant the faint heart-beat under Stephen Chase's hand was still.  
They have buried him, since then, beside the grave where he kept in the moonlight the night before he went away. Only a foot of earth between the two who loved each other so dearly. Is there so much? Surely our dreams of the future are not in vain. Surely somewhere, in the heaven which is "anchored off this world," where sickness and sorrow never come, and there are neither wars nor rumors of wars, somewhere in that still land of peace they are tasting the cup of joy which earth denied them.  
John Morgan and John Morgan's wife and children will speak the name of Ash Thornycroft all their lives with such reverent tenderness as befits the memory of one who is enshrined in their hearts as saint and as deliverer. We know not yet for what good end he and those who yet with him laid down their lives—God grant that we may know hereafter—that the seed sown in tears we may reap with great joy.  
From the Knickerbocker.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE.—Towards the close of last December the country was thrown into a state of great excitement by what the journals called a "Ministerial Crisis," superinduced in consequence of a political demonstration made on the President by a committee of Republican Senators.  
It subsequently appeared that the "demonstration" had been concerted by a party "caucus" called for the purpose, and that in this conference a resolution was proposed which, as first prepared, dealt at length with the President and the Secretary of State, and that the Secretary of State, Mr. Seward, in view of the fact, the Secretary of State immediately sent to the President his resignation, and requested that it might be immediately accepted. The Assistant Secretary of State sent in his resignation at the same time and in the same manner.  
On the following day Mr. Chase likewise tendered to the President his resignation of the office of Secretary of the Treasury. This unexpected step on his part was caused by the desire to leave the President untrammelled, should he, in view of recent political occurrences, desire to remodel the Cabinet according to the liberal demands of the Republican caucus.  
These proceedings naturally produced a profound sensation, as well by reason of the political situation which they created as because of the anomalous circumstances under which this "Ministerial Crisis" was precipitated on the President and the country. It was everywhere felt that such a demonstration, however pacific in the agencies it employed, was essentially revolutionary in the theory on which it was founded, involving, as it did, a direct encroachment on the legitimate prerogatives of the Executive branch of the Government. And, as to its heightening on the popular sense of the anomaly involved in this transaction, it was a portion of a single body of Congress, and that the farthest removed from the President and the country, it was everywhere felt that such a demonstration, however pacific in the agencies it employed, was essentially revolutionary in the theory on which it was founded, involving, as it did, a direct encroachment on the legitimate prerogatives of the Executive branch of the Government. And, as to its heightening on the popular sense of the anomaly involved in this transaction, it was a portion of a single body of Congress, and that the farthest removed from the President and the country, it was everywhere felt that such a demonstration, however pacific in the agencies it employed, was essentially revolutionary in the theory on which it was founded, involving, as it did, a direct encroachment on the legitimate prerogatives of the Executive branch of the Government. 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The news from Europe this week, if not the most interesting of any from any quarter, is certainly entitled to particular attention; and especially the proceedings which have been held in England at the opening of the present session of Parliament are regarded in this country as important, so far at least as they relate to the American question. The Queen's Speech contains indeed but a few words devoted to the attitude of her government toward this country, but those few words are full of meaning and expressive of an earnest desire that the great troubles of our times may be reduced to a better condition of things. The Queen takes the occasion to say, that she has obtained from making any propositions or suggestions for the purpose of bringing about a cessation of hostilities between the contending parties in the North American States; and that she has abstained from taking any step, with such a view, because it seemed to her that any overtures of the kind would not as yet be attended with sufficient probability of success.

And this was undoubtedly the reason why the English Government hesitated to co-operate with France, and not because of any indifference to a favorable result of mediation, if a favorable result could be obtained. Indeed, the Queen also takes occasion to assure the Lords and Gentlemen, that she views with the deepest concern the bloody and desolating war now raging in our North American States; though she is not unkindly, as she could not be expected to be, of the troubles which in consequence of this American quarrel have extended to her own dominions. And indeed the Queen says, she views with the deepest regret the severe distress which this same war has inflicted upon a large class of her own subjects; while she indulges the hope that their distress is becoming less instead of greater. These declarations are only such as were to be expected from the Throne on this occasion; and yet they are luminous as showing the present position of the Ministry. And these declarations taken in connection with the Address to the Throne from the Parliament which followed the Speech, can leave little doubt of the present position of England upon these subjects.

The debate upon the Address, if that may be called a debate which involved but little difference of opinion and which was brought to a close on the first night of the session, afforded an opportunity for the leading characters of the nation to express their sentiments, and to maintain their claims to be remembered with honor on the records of history. And evidently the civilization of English legislation and policy has wonderfully improved ever since the period of the American revolution. And now the concentrated venom of political animosity appears to be withdrawn from the old country of feuds and of feuds to wreak a more signal vengeance on this side of the water. And it is believed that the discussion of the American question on this occasion, was carried on with great decorum and in both Houses by a succession of speakers whose names are well known to fame abroad as well as at home. And what is very remarkable, the views of the Opposition appeared to coincide almost entirely with those of the Ministry. PALMERSTON and RUSSELL of course defended the Address. And while DEBYE regretted that the government had not joined in the attempt made by France, he said he would not intervene, but give parties an opportunity to settle their differences between themselves.

And further, the noble Earl expressed his opinion, as differing from that of many of his political friends, upon the subject of "recognition." He did not think the time had arrived for the recognition of the independence of the South. And he describes only two possible cases, in either of which a recognition would be justifiable. One would be, when the struggle should be evidently over. And the other, when the conflict should assume such a character as to make it a duty to interfere on the score of humanity alone. And in the latter case, he intimated that recognition must be followed by an active support of the country whose right had been recognized. But, on the whole, he approved of the course which the government had pursued. EARL GREY also supported the ministerial views in substance. And, strange as it may seem, not a single English statesman appears to believe in the possible restoration of the Union under the constitution by which the Union was formed. Though there is one, and the same is at the head of the Foreign Office, who holds that the subjugation of the South would be the ruin of the whole country; because, in that event, the maxim of civil freedom must necessarily be everywhere discarded and annulled.

Nothing of a decisive nature has been received from Mexico since the commencement of the French invasion. The latter news that country appears to be of no importance if true, and is probably to be little relied upon such as it is. The Herald of Mexico published indeed an account of a battle in which 200 Mexicans were said to have defeated 1200 French troops. But this, with some other news coming through sources, by no means friendly to the French, is to be received, with some allowance, as the French journals at New Orleans have made no mention of any such battle. With this caution, it may not be amiss to notice the statement, that Jalisco and some other small towns had been abandoned by the French, and re-occupied by the Mexicans. The French fleet, it appears, had bombarded Acapulco, the principal port of Mexico on the Pacific, corresponding with New Orleans on the Atlantic. But for some reason or other, as report says, the French did not proceed to occupy this place. And, according to news received by way of San Francisco, the possession of that place will be disputed with the French by Gen. Leveque at the head of some four or five thousand men marching to Acapulco to sustain the Mexican authorities. From the report of the bombardment as given from on board of the U. S. steamer Saratoga by a correspondent of the press, neither the attack nor the defense of the place was very vigorous; made in the first instance. The firing is said to have resembled target practice, the shot from the French going chiefly beyond the batteries, while those from the Mexicans invariably fell short of the mark. Gen. FORTY at the last dates appears to have been still at Orizaba. Perhaps he is not in a very comfortable position, and he has made certain changes with the view of taking a different road to the seat of the Mexican government. Possibly the city of Mexico may never be defended. And after all, it may happen that in consequence of the exhaustion of the war, the independence of the government may be saved, while that of the people is lost.

Still later accounts report the French in possession of Guaymas, close upon the Lower California border. After taking possession of the town, the French, 8000 strong, pushed on to the Rio Grande, the capital of Sonora, and the attack was unexpected. It was supposed that but little opposition could be made to them.

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The foreign news of late has given some account of an insurrection which has taken place in Poland, a country that would never have been subjected to a foreign yoke, if the people had not been unphilly divided among themselves. But now perhaps they think that they can profit from experience, and they are no doubt more of one mind since they have felt the heavy burden of Russian despotism. The grievance lately most complained of is a cruel manner of enforcing the new conscription law of the Autocrat. The quota to be furnished by Warsaw is said to have been about twelve thousand. To make sure of them, the gates of the city were first closed and afterwards hordes of Cossacks sent to search in the streets for the conscripts who till then had been kept in ignorance of their lot. But it is reported that only about two thousand of the twelve were secured in this manner; the rest having previously taken shelter in the forests for fear that they might be pressed into the service without notice. This outbreak is mentioned as if it was the beginning of an extensive rising. But the poor Poles have probably been provoked to this course by the artifice of the Autocrat himself, in order to have an excuse for governing his disaffected subjects with the exterminating sword of his despotism. Still he may be disappointed. These men armed only perhaps with scythes and rude spears may be more than a match for the colossal power of the Autocrat. Later news from Europe, if it can be relied upon, shows that the Russians have been since defeated in some inchoate battles; some upon the frontier of Prussia, and others upon the frontier of Russia where the insurgents took possession of a town, the seat of a custom house, after a sanguinary conflict. And perhaps to encourage the rebellion, Gen. RAMSAY, previous to his sudden death commanding the Russian troops in the Kingdom of Poland, had issued an order for the release of the conscripts taken on the nights of the 20th and 27th of January. Meantime, it appears, that the Council of the Empire has received orders from the Autocrat to prepare several bills for the purpose of introducing reforms into the administration of the Kingdom of Poland. But what all this means can only be ascertained from the sequel.

We have received the annual report of the Trustees and Superintendent of the Butler Hospital for the Insane, from which we learn that on the 31st of December, 1861, there were in the house one hundred and thirty-five patients—sixty-nine males and sixty-six females. During the year there were admitted thirty-six—sixteen males and twenty females—making the whole number under care, one hundred and seventy-one. There have been discharged thirty-nine—twenty males and nineteen females—leaving, on the 31st of December, 1862, one hundred and thirty-two. Of those discharged, seventeen had recovered; seven had improved; ten were unimproved; and five died.

The report of Superintendent RAY is full of instruction regarding the means best adapted for the care of the Insane and interesting as showing the history of the formation and workings of institutions established for this purpose.

The Trustees in their report make the following acknowledgments: From the executor of the estate of Charles B. King, Esq. we have received six oil paintings, the work of his hand, which were bequeathed to the institution by the talented and lamented artist. During his life, he had presented us with several of his works, and we gratefully record that liberality which prompted him to remember the Butler Hospital among the last recipients of his bounty. We delight to record his name among the benefactors of the institution.

The receipts of the Institution were \$30,410 96 and the expenses \$27,470 98. The officers elected for the year are: President—Amos Manton. Vice President—Edward King. Treasurer—John C. Brown, Francis Wixford, Amos D. Smith, Samuel Boyd Tobey, James C. Knight, John Kingsbury, Samuel G. Arnold, Rufus Waterman, William Springer, David Thompson.

Treasurer—Thomas P. Lee. Secretary—Robert R. Ives. We trust we are not exceeding the bounds of propriety by announcing that His Excellency WILLIAM SPRAGUE will on Tuesday next resign his office of Governor of this State. His term, as Senator, commences on the Fourth of March, and with a view of being present in case a special session of that body shall be deemed necessary, he will be at his post. His duties as Governor of the State during the past two and a half years have been arduous, and the responsibility great. His energy and determination have earned him through the many intricate positions in which he has been placed, and his acts have reflected honor upon our little State. We have not approved of some matters, as our local feelings are strong, but with those few exceptions we are free to confess that we know of no act of his, which was not done for the benefit and welfare of the State. We trust his new position will be as well sustained. On the retirement of Gov. SPRAGUE, His Excellency W. W. CHAMBERS, of this city, will assume the office of Governor of the State, a gentleman well fitted to perform the duties and wear the honor of the position.

The amount received for Licenses in this District under the Internal Revenue Act is \$7,430. The tax for the months of September, October, November and December on Manufactures, Auction Sales, &c., is \$4,011 26, and that for Carriages, Plates, Slaughtering, &c., &c., for the same time is \$2,382 48. Total amount \$13,823 00. Persons who have not called upon Collector THOMPSON, should bear in mind that after next Thursday no person will be admitted to their Tax, if not paid.

The President has recently nominated for promotion a large number of naval officers, all of whom have been confirmed in the Senate. Among them are the following from this State: Henry S. Newcomb and J. B. Crighton as Commanders; K. Randolph Breeze, and T. V. Abbott as Lieutenants; Commanders, and Sullivan J. Ames as Lieutenant.

The Court of Inquiry into the conduct of Commander CHARLES HUNTER, of the gunboat Monitor, has concluded its sittings, and Senator ARNOLD offered a resolution in Congress on Wednesday, which was adopted, calling upon the President to communicate the proceedings of the Court.

We are constantly indebted to Senator ARNOLD for favors, and in the reception of the Army and Navy Registers for 1862, and other valuable documents, our thanks are due to Senator ARNOLD.

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The whole number of births in the city during the year 1862, was three hundred and sixteen. In the First Ward there were 52, in the Second 58, Third 20, Fourth 30, and Fifth, (batteries), 56. During the year there were born 34 families; three families being born in the Second Ward, and one each in the First, Fourth and Fifth. The youngest mother was 17 years of age, and the oldest 66 years. The oldest father was 69 years. In one case the child was the fourteenth of the same parents.

Three children have been honored by the name of BURNETT, and if they shall grow up possessing the bravery, honesty and uprightness of their namesake, the parents will have no cause of shame.

It is estimated that the entire 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 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